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By the King.



A Proclamation against Exportation of Gold and Siluer.



I hath pleased Almighty God to blesse this Our Kingdome with a rare and rich Dowrie of natue Commodities, both by Sea & Land; With the exportation and procedure whereof, Treasure of Gold and Siluer may from time to time be brought in and increased: Which Treasure so brought in, hath been by sundry Acts of Parliament made in the severall ages and Reignes of Our Progenitors, ordained to bee as an immoueable and perpetuall stocke, which should neuer goe forth againe, but should receiue a dayly increase without diminution, and bee conserued, aswell for the making and maintaining of iust and honourable warres, either Offensive or Defensive; as for the adorning and furnishing of Our Kingdome in time of Peace, and strengthening the same with that reputation, which followeth States which are esteemed rich of Treasure: By which Statutes also it was most prouidently and politiquely foreseene, that if no Golde or Siluer should bee suffered, directly or indirectly, to passe out of this Our Realme, it must follow of necessitie, That the forreigne Commodities (being for the most part but delicacies, and superfluities) could not possibly be Imported in greater quantities, then the natue Commodities of Our Kingdome mought at the least answere and balance in Commerce; because there was no meanes left, to satisfie or supplie any ouerplus by Our Gold or Siluer; By which course this Realme should haue bene secured neuer to runne behind-hand, and yet still to bee in good possibilitie, to increase and aduance in wealth and Riches: But now wee are giuen to vnderstand, That, notwithstanding so many Statutes, made against the Exportation of Our Gold and Siluer, and that vpon so great danger, and seuerer penalties: yet neuerthelesse, great quantities of the same are continually carried forth into forreigne parts; not onely for supply of Commerce, in respect of the excesse of forreigne Commodities (which is a thing in it selfe intolerable) but also vpon secret and subtill gaines, made at the Mints abroad, taking aduantage at the exactnesse of Our Justice, and tenderneesse of Our Honour, in keeping the Standard of Our Coine more inuariale, then it is in any other place, or State of Europe; which Artifices, as wee doe not approoue, nor much lesse emulate, so neuerthelesse, wee are willing by all meanes to frustrate, and prevent the preiudice that redoundeth vnto Us thereby; the rather for that the inconuenience is growne to that height,







and is made so noxious and visible to the eyes of all men; as that Our Coine passeth as usually and familiarly in payments in parts beyond the Seas, as if it were the currant and proper Coyne of the said parts, to the inestimable detriment and impoverishing of Our Kingdome.

Wee therefore keeping a continuall watch ouer the good of Our people, by these presents, by the aduice of Our Prīuie Councell, doe publish and declare, & straitly charge and command, as well Our Treasurer of England, Chancellour of Our Exchequer, and Warden of the Cinque Ports, or his Deputie, as all other Our Judges, Barons of the Exchequer, Iustices, Officers, and Ministers, and more especially Our Customers, Comptrollers, and Searchers, and their Deputies and Waiters, and also the Farmours of Our Customes in any of Our Ports, and their Deputies or Waiters, and all other Our Officers and Ministers to whom it may appertaine, and all Our Subjects in generall; That all Statutes made and in force, against the Exportation of Golde or Siluer in Coyne, Jewels, Plate, or Vessel, or howsoever, be straitly and ducly kept and obserued, and diligently and carefully prosecuted and put in execution, vpon paine, not onely of the Penalties and Forfeitures in the sayd Statutes, or any of them contained, but also of Our high indignation and displeasure, and such prosecution and censure, as shall be fit, as in a cause of State; and also vpon paine of Our high indignation, losse of Office, and other condigne censure, against such Our Officers or Ministers, as shall be remisse or negligent in the execution of Our said Lawes, or in the performance of this Our Royall commandement.

And we doe further by these presents straitly charge and command all Merchants and their Factors, Masters of Shippes, Mariners, Passengers, and all other Our louing Subjects whatsoever, that shall haue any notice of Golde or Siluer in Coyne, Jewels, Bullion, Plate or Vessel, or otherwise howsoever, which hath beene already exported by the space of two yeeres last past, or shall be hereafter exported, or shall be shipped for exportation, (reasonable charges for the Voyage onely excepted) or shall be gathered and got together, by change or otherwise, with intention to export, or with intention to put it into the hands of them which should export it; That they forthwith reueale the same to Our Treasurer of England, or Under-Treasurer for the time being, or to the Warden, or Deputie Warden of the Cinque Ports, or to Our Attourney generall, or some other of Our learned Councell, for the time being. For which their discovery, they shall receiue in reward the one halfe of the sayde Golde or Siluer, or the value thereof: And on the other part, if they shall not discover the same, they shall incurre and receiue such punishment, as by Our Lawes and Statutes, or otherwise by Our Prerogative Royall, shall be meete to be inflicted vpon them for their Offence and contempt in that behalfe.

Giuen at Whitehall the three and twentieth day of March, in the twelfth yeere of Our Reigne of England, France and Ireland, and of Scotland the eight and fortieth.



God saue the King.

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ANNO DOM. M.D.C.XIII.